



# Bay Trail Rider

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project  
Administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments

Winter/Spring 1999

## Oyster Point Marina/Park Celebration *New trail and new skills*

On October 28, the San Mateo Harbor District hosted a celebratory opening of the newest section of completed Bay Trail at Oyster Point Marina/Park in South San Francisco. The paved, wheelchair-accessible half-mile section now connects a 3.5-mile continuous trail segment. A new windsurfing launch ramp was also installed and provides access to Bay waters for expert windsurfers.

State and local dignitaries on hand to help cut the ceremonial ribbon and join in the "maiden" walk included: outgoing State Senator Quentin Kopp; County Controller and former Supervisor Tom Huening (Bay Trail Board Co-Chair); South San Francisco Mayor Jim Datzman; former Daly City Mayor and current legislative assistant to Supervisor Mary Griffin, Al Teglia; a representative of Assemblymember Lou Papan; and Harbor District Commission President Leo Padretti. Harbor District General Manager Peter Grenell served as emcee. Bay Trail Director Jim McGrath attended in a show of support, not just for the completed trail segment, but also as an avid windsurfer.

The District received a \$75,000 grant from the Regional Development Program (RDP) partnership between the Bay Trail Project and the California Conservation Corps (CCC), whereby competitive, heavily-leveraged state grants are awarded to local communities to build Bay Trail. Project improvements include a new retaining wall above a bridge at the south end of the Marina, picnic tables, benches, signs, and extensive landscaping (installed after the accompanying photo!). Additional project contributions and matches were received from the California Coastal Conservancy, San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the City of South San Francisco, Raiser Organization, Genentech, United Parcel Service and local residents.

Oyster Point Marina can claim at least two noteworthy firsts:

- it is the first of this year's crop of RDP projects to be completed, and
- second, it was the first RDP project in which the CCC tackled the paving component.



*Ribbon cutters (left to right) Supervisor Tom Huening, Senator Quentin Kopp, Harbor District Commission President Leo Padretti, and South San Francisco Vice Mayor Jim Datzman.*

CCC Mid Bay Project Coordinator Bob Wilkins spoke at the event, stressing how important paving skills are to fulfill the collaborative potential of the RDP partnership with the Bay Trail Project. "Now there is no portion of the Bay Trail that we cannot build." (*Except perhaps the bridge crossings - Editor*). The entire CCC crew came out to join the celebration and received special commendation from elected officials and sponsors for a job well done.

Since the opening, Harbor Master Robert Johnson reports that the completed trail has been extremely well received by the public. "It has been a very positive addition to the facility. Foot traffic has more than tripled. Having so many people enjoying the trail in such a beautiful setting is the best reward." He also reports that plans are underway to add a sculpture garden along the promenade which will further enhance the trail experience.

Congratulations to the Oyster Point Marina on their new trail and to the CCC crew on their new paving skills!

# Rainy Skies, Broad Smiles in Martinez

## Shared Bay Trail–Ridge Trail Dedication



A heavy downpour probably dampened the attendance, but it hardly dampened the spirits of those who braved the elements at a joint Bay Trail–Ridge Trail dedication for a shared trail segment in Martinez on Saturday, November 7.



A ceremony at Martinez Regional Shoreline Park marked the completion and signing of about 2 miles of trail through Martinez between the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Nejedly Staging Area and Mococo Road (just west of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge).

Ridge Trail board member Glenn Kirby was the emcee for the event. Special guests included Senator Richard Rainey, Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, Martinez City Councilmembers Barbara Woodburn and Mark Ross, Amtrak Government Affairs Manager Sara Hamlen, EBRPD Directors Beverly Lane and Ted Radke, Bay Trail Director Rob Powell, and Martinez Transportation Manager Richard Pearson.

The event also highlighted the Martinez Intermodal Project which includes plans for a new Amtrak station, a new historical museum and improved train, bus, pedestrian and bicycle connections in the area.

Unfortunately the llamas, rides, walks, in-line skating, and equestrian events were all cancelled on account of the inclement weather. Everyone vowed to reschedule the rained-out trail activities when Amtrak hosts their station opening later this year.



*When the sun peeked out briefly, emcee Glenn Kirby (center) quickly seized the moment for a ceremonial sign unveiling. Others (from left to right): Amtrak's Sara Hamlen, Ridge Trail Council Executive Director Clifford Janoff, Bay Trail Director Rob Powell, Senator Richard Rainey, EBRPD Director Ted Radke, Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, EBRPD Director Beverly Lane, Councilmember Barbara Woodburn, and Councilmember Mark Ross.*

Special thanks to many who helped with the event: Ridge Trail Council volunteers Ron Brown, Don deFremery, Neil Kaplan, Janette Mahoney, Kathryn Petersen, Renee Roberge; Amtrak's Sara Hamlen for gracious rain contingency planning; EBRPD's trail specialist Steve Fiala; and Martinez planners Cathy Nowicki and Joe Enke for their help with the event and with sign installation.

**Bay Trail Rider**, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail.

Check out the **Bay Trail website** for news and updates, upcoming events, meetings, and announcements:

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/baytrail.html>

For more information call 510.464.7935.

### Contributors

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Debbi Nichols, Production Coordinator

### Attention, Bay Trail Commuters!

Do you use the Bay Trail to get to work, go to school, run errands or visit friends? We are compiling testimonials from cyclists and hikers who use the Bay Trail for transportation purposes (as opposed to recreation). We are looking for the following information:

- the purpose of your trip
- reasons for favoring the Bay Trail over other transportation modes
- starting and ending points
- approximate distance or elapsed time
- the time and day of your trip

Please share your Bay Trail commute stories, along with your name and phone number, with Niko Letunic (see left for contact information).

# Wildlife & Public Access Study Update

## *Sites selected, field observation to begin*

After three years of preparation, the Bay Trail's Wildlife and Public Access Study recently reached two milestones. First, researchers Dr. Lynne Trulio and Jana Sokale completed their investigations of all proposed study locations and selected the following three paired sites (developed trail/control site):

- Bothin Trail/Bothin Marsh in Marin County;
- Redwood Shores/Redwood Shores Ecological Area in San Mateo County; and
- Stevens Creek Tidal Marsh/Stevens Creek in Santa Clara County.

Second, thanks to a generous grant of \$30,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy, the budget for the planned year of field observations is now complete (see below for a complete list of Study donors). Thus we are ready to launch the year-long field research this summer.

### History

The Wildlife and Public Access Study began in response to concerns that new shoreline trails might harm the birds who live, nest, or feed at the water's edge. A literature search of over 800 abstracts revealed that very few studies had been conducted on the impacts of trails on shorebirds. The Bay Trail Project resolved to work closely with wildlife experts to begin to fill this critical information gap.

The methodology was developed by respected researchers and reviewed by wildlife experts from universities, resource management agencies and environmental organizations. We then turned our attention to funding the study, and selecting the study sites. With the sites chosen and the field research phase fully funded, we are gearing up to begin the observations.

### Next Steps

Over the next four months, the research team and Bay Trail staff will:

- consult with California Department of Fish and Game statisticians to standardize the study methodology;
- establish study quadrants and develop detailed habitat descriptions of each site to record baseline conditions; and
- recruit, hire and train three field supervisors and 21 observers.

Job announcements have been widely circulated to local colleges, institutions and environmental organizations. We are excited that the field observations will begin soon and we are grateful to all contributors to this landmark study.

### Wildlife and Public Access Study Donors

#### Literature Search/Methodology

California Trails & Greenways Foundation  
Cargill Salt  
National Park Service

#### Field Research

Cargill Salt  
Coastal Conservancy  
Oracle Corporation  
Vandenberg/Lipton

#### Site Selection/Pilot Testing

Bay Trail Project  
East Bay Regional Park District  
National Park Service  
Varian Foundation

### Recruitment for Field Supervisors and Field Observers

A full year commitment is critical. Observers will spend 6 half-day shifts per season collecting field data. Observers should have an academic background in natural or physical sciences; field experience with wildlife monitoring and data collection techniques; knowledge of Bay Area flora and fauna, and the ability to follow protocols and work in a team atmosphere. Supervisors must have a 4-year degree and additional experience. Quarterly stipends will be paid; course credit can be arranged. For complete job descriptions, and applications, visit the ABAG website ([www.abag.ca.gov/abagapp.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/abagapp.html)) or contact Heidi Wilson at 510/464-7941. The application deadline is March 1, 1999.

For more information about the study, contact Ceil Scandone at 510.464.7961 or [CeilS@abag.ca.gov](mailto:CeilS@abag.ca.gov)

### Route Guide to San Francisco's Bay Trail

The Bay Trail Project was recently awarded a small grant from the San Francisco Urban Resources Partnership to produce a route guide to the Bay Trail in San Francisco between the Bay Bridge and the San Mateo county line. The guide will highlight historic, cultural, recreational and



natural points of interest that cyclists and hikers on that segment of the Bay Trail can expect to find along the way. If you have ideas for the route guide, have an item for inclusion, or would like a copy of the completed guide, contact Bay Trail planner Niko Letunic (510.464.7915 - [NikoL@abag.ca.gov](mailto:NikoL@abag.ca.gov)).



# Don Gray Memorial



Joseph Donald "Don" Gray 8/15/1940 – 7/5/1998

Deep thanks to the family of Don Gray – especially wife Marilyn Chin and daughter Rasán Gray – for designating the Bay Trail Project to receive contributions in his memory. Many sent in cards and notes with fond remembrances of Don as a teacher, friend and cycling buddy.

In a short autobiography, Don highlights key influences that shaped his life and worldview. They include growing up in Macon, Georgia where he began "...questioning the social and political culture of why things were the way they were," college in South Florida "...which further opened up my eyes to the world around me," and a motorcycle accident in 1965 which ultimately resulted in the amputation of his right arm.

Don became a high school teacher in San Francisco, eventually becoming an English Department head. He also founded Twowindows Press which hand set type and printed in the small press tradition.

In 1987, Don turned a corner to better health. He began working out at a gym where he met Marilyn, whom he credited with getting him started on a recumbent bicycle. He described cycling as "beneficial therapy for both my pain and psyche." His cycling intensified as he became "...ever more fascinated by speed, distance, and endurance." He garnered an impressive list of accomplishments on a recumbent, just a few of which include: nine organized centuries (100 miles) in 1990; first to finish all five passes on the Markleville Death Ride, the Terrible Two, and Furnace Creek 508; and setting a record for the 50+ category in the San Francisco city hall to Los Angeles city hall race.

Cycling brought Don great joy and his example continues to inspire. Total contributions of \$1,250 in his name will bring joy to countless others by supporting the work of the Bay Trail Project.

## Thank you to all who contributed in memory of Don Gray:

Barbara Amroffell	Harry and Florence Kerop
BB Borowitz	Theodore Live
James and	Sharon Lum
Linda Breeden	Helen McKenna
John P. Camp, Jr.	Dina and Benny Menconi
Gene Chin and	Cindy Norvell and
Vicki Yamaguchi	Coleman Palmiera
Melissa Elkins	D. D. O'Brien
Alan Forkosh	Ralph Page
Barbara Goto and	Michael Schaffer and
Glenn Yamaguchi	Suzanne Van Houten
Grizzly Peak Cyclists	Frances and John Schnabel
Sy M. Kahn	Charlotte Whitacre

## BAY TRAIL SUPPORTERS

August 1998–January 1999  
Extending the Bay Trail  
thanks to the generous  
support of the following  
people and organizations:

### \$300 and above

Gary Binger  
Eugene and Ruth Leong  
Shana O'Hare  
Chin Ming Yang

### \$100-\$299

Bill Bliss  
Victoria Eisen  
Mel Ishikata  
Marci Loss  
Janet McBride  
Tom Mikkelsen  
John Northmore Roberts  
& Associates

Jeanne Perkins  
Santa Clara County Parks and  
Recreation Department  
Richard and Marjorie Smallwood  
Suzan Ryder  
Revan Tranter  
Don Weden  
Lori Kershner-Wine

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Olivier Hubert  
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Jean Starkweather  
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Yvonne San Jule  
Carolyn and Philip Spiegel  
Charles and Barbara Taylor  
Valley Spokesmen Touring Club

# TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS: New Trail Segments, Plans & Opportunities

## NORTH BAY

**Stanly Ranch** is a planned residential neighborhood, winery and destination resort and golf course at the City of **Napa's** southern tip, along Highway 12 and the Napa River. The scheme includes a new Bay Trail connection through the project site, from Golden Gate Drive to Cuttings Wharf Road, as well as a two-loop connector trail to the river.

Plans are underway to flood the runways at Hamilton Air Field in Novato (to restore 300 acres of wetlands) and to redevelop neighboring parcels as a mixed-use "new town." The Bay Trail will be realigned around Long Point and along a new perimeter levee and Hangar Road. It will continue north on Nave Drive until a less-trafficked alternative is identified.

The National Park Service's reuse plan for **Fort Baker**, in southern **Marin**, proposes an interpretive trail around Horseshoe Bay, a loop trail to Battery Duncan, closing Conzelman Road west of the Golden Gate Bridge to private automobiles, downgrading the Point Cavallo loop road to trail dimensions, and restriping East Road to slow down traffic and provide shoulders.

## SAN FRANCISCO

The latest plan for **Mission Bay** calls for turning 300 acres east of Interstate 280 in **San Francisco** into a mixed-use neighborhood with nearly 6,100 housing units. Forty-nine acres will be reserved for open space, and linear parks with paths will be provided on both sides of Mission Creek Channel and fronting the Bay (along Terry François Boulevard).

The long-term reuse plan issued for **Hunters Point Shipyard** in **San Francisco** envisions a thriving waterfront community with a broad range of land uses. The neighborhood would be ringed by an open-space corridor along much of its shoreline, including a continuous trail connecting to existing Bay Trail segments at India Basin and Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

## SAN MATEO

The proposed build-out of **Sierra Point**, a landfilled peninsula straddling **Brisbane** and **South San Francisco**, will complete shoreline access around the site (with the exception of the constrained northwest corner). A pedestrian and bicycle bridge connecting to the proposed Bay West Cove development to the south will be provided immediately east of the Caltrain right-of-way.

A **recycling center and waste transfer station** is being planned for a vacant waterfront parcel south of San Bruno Point in **South San Francisco**. The Bay Trail would be extended along the perimeter of the site, to be accessed from the east end of Jamie Court. Currently there is no improved public access at the site.

The City of **Burlingame** is planning to close the **Bay Trail gap between Burlway Road and Airport Boulevard**. The City would acquire one acre of land in the form of easements across eight waterfront parcels (including the paved parking areas of four developed properties) and would install bridges over Easton Creek and an unnamed drainage channel.

## CONTRA COSTA

The City of **Richmond** expects to begin **trial ferry service** from the City's Inner Harbor to San Francisco this spring. To maximize the potential of this "water trail," the Bay Trail Project recommends that the City install bicycle parking at the ferry terminal and adopt a policy allowing bicycles on the ferry at all times and free of charge.

**Pacific Refinery**, tucked into the City of **Hercules's** northwest corner, is being decommissioned, and the site will be redeveloped as a residential community with an extensive trail system. Plans feature a park incorporating the Bay Trail along the site's half-mile-long Bay frontage, though fencing might be required to separate the park from the still-active railroad next to the waterfront.

## ALAMEDA

The City of **Alameda** has prepared a 20-year **bicycle master plan** that recommends numerous shoreline trail enhancements, including a path encircling Alameda Point, a northern waterfront path from Grand Harbor to Park Street, closing the gap through Ballena Bay, water taxi service to Oakland, and improvements to the Webster and Posey tubes and the Bay Farm Island bike bridge.

To provide a **trail connection from Lake Merritt to Estuary Park**, last year the City of **Oakland** proposed a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over active railroad tracks and the Embarcadero. Faced with unexpectedly high costs, the City now proposes a surface connection that would convert a segment of the abandoned Union Pacific railroad right-of-way into a landscaped trail.

Construction of the **Port of Oakland's** 30-acre **Middle Harbor Shoreline Park** will begin in late 1999, pending approvals. The project consists of an active-recreation area at Point Arnold; a path connecting Point Arnold to the existing Port View Park; an open-space area at the historic Union Pacific mole; and a promenade, trail and beach between Point Arnold and the mole.

## SANTA CLARA

The City of **San Jose** has prepared a master plan to guide the development of **Alviso**, its historic neighborhood at the edge of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The master plan endorses completion of the Bay Trail from State Route 237 to Coyote Creek based on a refined alignment still to be determined by the City.

## Special Events – Mark your Calendar

**Saturday, June 19, 9 am or 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm**  
**East Bay Shoreline Ride.**

Meet at 9 am at the Richmond BART station or at 12:30 pm at the Oakland City Center/12<sup>th</sup> Street BART station.

This is an easy, three-legged ride along mostly flat terrain.

The first leg hugs the shorelines of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville, ending at the Oakland City Center/12<sup>th</sup> Street BART station. The second leg traverses Alameda, Bay Farm Island, the San Leandro Marina and the Hayward Regional Shoreline, finishing at the Hayward BART station at approximately 4 pm. The final leg proceeds to Union City, Alameda Creek, Coyote Hills, and crosses the Dumbarton Bridge to end at the Palo Alto Caltrain station. (Ride one, two or all three segments!) Ride leader: Bill Carson (415.922.2581, klein\_carson@earthlink.net).

Coastal Conservancy grants now  
available for public access projects



The Coastal Conservancy has announced a new grant program for projects to provide public access to the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Projects may include:

- Pre-acquisition analysis: appraisals, soil testing, etc.
- Acquisition of bayshore property for public access
- Design and planning costs for trails and support facilities such as staging areas or parking lots
- **Construction costs for Bay Trail segments, spur trails, or support facilities**
- Interpretive or directional signage.

Local governments, park districts and nonprofit land trusts are eligible to apply. A total of \$500,000 is available. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

For more information and to request an application package, please call Joan Cardellino of the Coastal Conservancy at 510.826.4093.

## SHORT CUTS

### Welcome New Board Members

The Board of Directors of the Bay Trail Project has two new members: **Julia Miller**, serving her first term on the Sunnyvale City Council, and **Jim McGrath**, Environmental Manager at the Port of Oakland.

Councilmember Miller campaigned on connecting the Bay Trail through Sunnyvale, and as an elected official has taken an interest in issues of transportation and environmental protection. Providing public access to the Bay has been an important part of Jim McGrath's job during his nine years at the Port. For example, he helped implement the repair and expansion of Middle Harbor Park, which doubled its acreage and included a grade-separated segment of the Bay Trail. We eagerly anticipate the contributions that Jim and Councilmember Miller will bring to the Board, given their interests and enthusiasm.

### Staff News

Congratulations to **Victoria Eisen**, who is expecting her second child and will begin a six-month maternity leave on February 11. Victoria's Bay Trail focus has been on increasing public access to the Bay Area's toll bridges. If you need information regarding one of Victoria's projects, contact Project Manager Janet McBride (510.464.7935).

### Graphic Design Volunteer Sought

We are looking for a volunteer to redesign this newsletter. We would like to update the look of the *Bay Trail Rider*, our main publication and promotional venue. If you are a graphic designer interested in contributing your time and talents, please contact Niko Letunic (510.464.7915). The agency standard page layout program is Adobe PageMaker for the PC although we do have a Macintosh with PageMaker capabilities. You will help advance the Bay Trail and your work will be seen by nearly 4,000 readers. We would like to have a redesign in place by July (in time for the Summer/Fall issue).



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